



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kristi Jones  
**FROM:** **Michael Leach**  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting with NAACP  
**COPY:** Carol Young, Eric Wilson

**EVENT DATE:** Friday, January 5, 2018

**GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE TIME:** 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

**EVENT DETAILS**

Name of Event:	NC NAACP Leadership Meeting
Event Begin & End Time:	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Location:	Administration Building ABC Conference Room 5034
Event Attire?	Business Attire
Host Organization or Individual?	Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President – NC NAACP
Invited by:	Requested by Letter (attached)
On-site contact:	Michael Leach (919 349-2947)
Governor's Staff Attending:	Michael Leach, Kristi Jones, William McKinney, Ken Eudy
Will the Governor speak / how long and at what time?	Yes, this is an open dialogue with NC NAACP Leadership
Requested Speaking Topic:	Criminal Justice Reform (per letter)
Who will introduce the Governor?	Kristi Jones
Who else is speaking?	Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President – NC NAACP
Podium?	No
Microphone?	No
Stage?	No
Estimated Attendees?	15
Audience Description?	NC NAACP Leadership
VIPs or Elected Officials	No

Attending?	
Will press be allowed at event?	No

## BACKGROUND

This is a meeting the NAACP requested via public letter. (See attached) Reverend Spearman sent same meeting requests to Speaker Moore, Senator Berger and Chief Justice Martin. To my knowledge, we are the first to meet with them.

## TIMETABLE & RUN OF SHOW

- 8:00 am Governor will welcome and introduce his staff members.
- 8:05 am Dr. Spearman will introduce people attending.
- 8:10 am Governor Cooper discusses the importance of the NAACP in North Carolina and value of working together.  
  
Governor can highlight past legal collaborations as an example . (See attached)  
  
Governor can also give an update on some of the things he is working on. (See list of common interests listed below)
- 8:30 am Governor Cooper asks Dr. Spearman and leadership to share comments regarding this administration's partnership with the NAACP and how we can support each other.
- 8:55 am Governor thanks leadership for meeting with Governor and advises of opportunities for continued dialogue with staff.
- 8:58 am Governor shakes hands to with leadership and departs.

## SUGGESTED TOPICS /TALKING POINTS

### Common Interests:

**Judicial Reform** – There are efforts by the General Assembly to redraw judicial districts or change how judges are selected. This issue is critical to our state and particularly the African American community.

**\*\* NEED TO ASK NAACP to help on this important issue. They need to be a loud voice!**

**Voter Suppression** – The administration made a policy decision to not seek a review by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the decision in NC NAACP v. McCrory.

**Leandro Commission** – Governor's Executive Order 10 established the Governor's Commission on Access to a Sound Basic Education to help North Carolina meet its duties under the state constitution as identified in Leandro v. North Carolina and Hoke County Board of Education v. North Carolina. The Executive Order provides that the Commission provide recommendations to address equitable funding of school districts.

**Executive Order 24** – Executive Order 24 outlines the Governor's interest in policies prohibiting discrimination, harassment and retaliation in state employment, service and contracts under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Governor. Specific policies are forthcoming.

**Medicaid Expansion** - The expansion of Medicaid – which the Affordable Care Act made possible – is a separate piece of the regular Medicaid program. North Carolina has been part of the regular Medicaid program since 1970. But it remains one of 18 states that have not accepted the expansion.

Medicaid provides government health insurance for low-income people. In 2015, the state[ [HYPERLINK "https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Medicaid\\_Annual-Report-State-Fiscal-Year-2015.pdf"](https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Medicaid_Annual-Report-State-Fiscal-Year-2015.pdf) ], 1.8 million North Carolinians were enrolled – most of them children. The expansion would cover people who don't qualify for either the Affordable Care Act health care subsidies or for regular Medicaid coverage.

The state pays about one-fourth of the costs for regular Medicaid expenses in North Carolina, according to the N.C. General Assembly Fiscal Research Division. The federal government pays 60 percent, and the rest is funded by drug companies and other sources. In 2015, when the bill came out to \$13.8 billion for North Carolina,[ [HYPERLINK "http://www.ncleg.net/fiscalresearch/fiscal\\_briefs/Fiscal\\_Briefs\\_PDFs/hhs\\_2015\\_Medicaid\\_Health\\_Choice\\_Reform\\_Brief\\_FINAL\\_2016-02-29.pdf"](http://www.ncleg.net/fiscalresearch/fiscal_briefs/Fiscal_Briefs_PDFs/hhs_2015_Medicaid_Health_Choice_Reform_Brief_FINAL_2016-02-29.pdf) ].

The expansion is funded almost entirely by the federal government – 95 percent now, and dropping to 90 percent by 2020.

**Education** – We need effective educators leading every classroom to ensure that all students have equitable opportunities.

We need more male and teachers of color.

While North Carolina has made strides, we need to increase teacher salaries at all levels of the pay scale to be competitive in the southeast.

North Carolina should provide adequate resources to support technology, digital materials, and textbooks among other resources.

## **Reentry**

### **Concerns of the NAACP:**

**Dontae Sharpe** – (Defer question to General Counsel) We recognize that the NAACP is an advocate for the release of Dontae Sharpe though the NAACP does not legally represent Mr. Sharpe. A pardon request was resubmitted. The request is under review by the NC Attorney General and the local district attorney.

**Glen Edward Chapman** another request for a pardon from Dr. Spearman. (Defer question to General Counsel)

**Deandre Purvis** (Defer question to General Counsel)

**Atlantic Coast Pipeline** - The NC NAACP expressed concerns regarding the pipeline's proposed routes and its' impact on minority communities. (Ask if they have submitted concerns in public comment period.)

## BIOGRAPHIES

Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President of the NC NAACP



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The North Carolina NAACP has a new president, Reverend Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, a Greensboro pastor of Clinton Tabernacle AME Zion Church. Prior to his election, Dr. Spearman served the NC NAACP as Third Vice-President under the leadership of Reverend Dr. William Barber.

Dr. Spearman stated that under his leadership, the NC NAACP will continue to pursue principal goals including:

1. Pro-labor, anti-poverty policies that ensure economic sustainability.
2. Educational equality that ensures that every child receives a high-quality, well-funded, constitutional, diverse public education.
3. Healthcare for all by enduring access to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security and by providing environmental protection.
4. Fairness in the criminal justice system by addressing the continuing inequalities in the system for black, brown, and poor white people.

5. Protect and expand voting rights, women's rights, LGBT rights, immigrant rights, and the fundamental principle of equal protection under the law.

Before his pastorate at Clinton Tabernacle AME Zion Church, Dr. Spearman served the AME Zion denomination in Salisbury and Hickory for 17 years. He is a former member of the Hickory City School Board where he served for three years. In 2014, the NC Foundation for Public School Children awarded Dr. Spearman the Champions for Children Award for his many years of advocating for quality education for all children in public school and for the future of public schools. Dr. Spearman has won many other awards including the NC NAACP Minister of the Year, and the Hickory Spirit of King Award.

Dr. Spearman has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mercy College in Yonkers, N.Y, a Master of Divinity Degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, N.C., and a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton Ohio. He is proficient in Greek, Hebrew, and Spanish.